

**To:** Buhl, Rick[Buhl.Rick@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Kortuem, Patrice[Kortuem.Patrice@epa.gov]; Hobart, Yolanda[Hobart.Yolanda@epa.gov]; Shanahan, Mike[Shanahan.Mike@epa.gov]; Hall, Katherin[hall.katherin@epa.gov]; Ward, W. Robert[Ward.Robert@epa.gov]; Ostrander, David[Ostrander.David@epa.gov]  
**From:** Thomas, Deb  
**Sent:** Sat 8/15/2015 8:16:03 PM  
**Subject:** Re: UNION REPRESENTATION FOR GOLD KING

A big thank you to everyone that contributed to getting arrangements for Union representation in Durango made quickly. Great team work!

On Aug 15, 2015, at 11:24 AM, Buhl, Rick <[Buhl.Rick@epa.gov](mailto:Buhl.Rick@epa.gov)> wrote:

Deb,

Please see email below from Yolanda regarding the union representation for the IG investigation. Some really good news. Many thanks to Yolanda for pulling this together on such short notice.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks.

Rick

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Hobart, Yolanda" <[Hobart.Yolanda@epa.gov](mailto:Hobart.Yolanda@epa.gov)>  
**Date:** August 15, 2015 at 11:11:59 AM MDT  
**To:** "Buhl, Rick" <[Buhl.Rick@epa.gov](mailto:Buhl.Rick@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Hall, Katherin" <[hall.katherin@epa.gov](mailto:hall.katherin@epa.gov)>, "Ward, W. Robert" <[Ward.Robert@epa.gov](mailto:Ward.Robert@epa.gov)>, "Shanahan, Mike" <[Shanahan.Mike@epa.gov](mailto:Shanahan.Mike@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: UNION REPRESENTATION FOR GOLD KING

Rick,

I just got off our call. Britta, Dave, and Karen were on the phone. They decided to have Dave travel back to Durango Monday through Wednesday. Britta would then be there from Wednesday to Saturday morning. I will work with Christine and Phillip to get their travel going.

Some of the other things we touched on were:

- Karen, as Counsel President, has agreed to have Britta and Local 3607 provide representation to all AFGE BUEs who may be asked questions in the IG investigation. She will send out an e-mail to her Local Presidents telling them that Britta will be the POC for representation.
- Karen will also send out an e-mail to the rest of the Union Coalition (all other Unions with BUEs in EPA and who may be providing Region 8 assistance) to inform them of the IG investigation and she will request that Britta and Local 3607 be allowed to represent their BUEs as well.
- I asked that any request related to the Gold King Mine spill be put in e-mail. We all agreed that it was prudent to have an official record of any requests, agreements, etc. moving forward as we work through this incident.
- Britta and/or Dave will let us know if they need to be down in the Durango area beyond Saturday.
- We plan on meeting August 24 to touch base and ensure we are able to share any information we can and provide updates to each other.

Yolanda Hobart

Labor and Employee Relations Officer

EPA Region 8

p: 303-312-6195

c: 303-565-0658

f: 303-312-6370

[hobart.yolanda@epa.gov](mailto:hobart.yolanda@epa.gov)

**From:** Buhl, Rick  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 15, 2015 10:54 AM  
**To:** Hobart, Yolanda  
**Cc:** Hall, Katherin; Ward, W. Robert; Shanahan, Mike  
**Subject:** Re: UNION REPRESENTATION FOR GOLD KING

Yolanda

Any word from the union on who they want to send?

Thanks

Rick

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 14, 2015, at 5:17 PM, Hobart, Yolanda <[Hobart.Yolanda@epa.gov](mailto:Hobart.Yolanda@epa.gov)> wrote:

All,

I spoke with Britta this afternoon letting her know that we are working on getting travel for her or whomever she designate for representation during the IG investigation. She indicated that the only two people available would be her and Dave Christenson. I also mentioned to her that I was going to speak with Karen Kellen about having AFGE Local 3607 be the lead for representation for those AFGE BUE from other regions who may be interviewed. Britta has agreed to take this on if Karen agrees. She will be waiting to hear from us on how to proceed. I told her I would call her tomorrow to provide her an update, if I had one.

Yolanda Hobart

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